

7 Alexander Hall

Princeton, N.J.

Dearest Folks,

I have been working all the evening on some exegesis for "Das". It is pretty good fun, although it takes a lot of time. I am doing it on the typewriter, and when I have to stop to write in Greek all the time, it does not make for speed.

Dr. Zwemer left to-night. He sails to-morrow for Cairo. He was looking for a stenographer, and last night in the Philadelphian meeting, at which he spoke, he asked if anyone would go with him. Well, one fellow said he would and he leaves to-morrow with him. That was quick work, believe me. I would like to be going with him myself. How would you not have had a fit, if I had started off to-morrow morning on a steamer for Egypt for a year or more. I sometimes envy the folks, who can jump quickly. My what a lot of cogitating it saves, and they get along as well as we who plan for years, and then never arrive.



I got a paper from Anne MacGregor. The Great Pure Food Show has begun. "Miss Payne" appears in the headlines along side of Joffre, French and the rest. Gee, it must be nice to be famous. The sooner I can call off her job out there, the better I shall like it.

I always feel on edge around here, especially in the classes. I am looking for a fight all the time. I nearly got up and left Chapel this morning, just to hear That Green read the Bible. I don't know why I should feel so pugnacious toward the faculty here, but I most certainly do. I guess I have not got the hang of the place yet. It is the way they do everything, that gets my goat so badly. Their methods of teaching would have been fine before the flood. "Mr. So-and so, please stand up to recite." That is the way they ask a question. They need the preceptorial system so badly that it hurts. I never could stand a large class. I never had one since Central High School, except a few Freshman year in college. The place this institution is behind the times is in methods, not theology. I am right behind their beliefs. When Loetscher objects to Patton, it only confirms my impression of Loetscher. I thought from his lectures that he was trying to seem modern, and make history an evolutionary science. He thinks if he uses the word evolution, he thereby puts himself on the front row. He is one of the people who would say that the present day locomotive had evolved out of Stephenson's model.



I am not at all decided that Scotland is not the place for me. I would like to be decided, so that we all could rest, but it cannot be done. I know, if I do not go abroad pretty soon, that I shall blame all my ill successes in the future, to that cause, whether it is the real cause or not. To sit back in the contemptible "safety first" atmosphere of this country, when there is some fresher air anywhere else in the world, looks like a poor plan. Dr. Zwemer said, he rejoiced that his two kids were having the experience of seeing a little heroism. I feel that the spirit in England and Scotland today is worth catching. I don't care whether their courses are better than ours or not. What I need most to be a success in God's work is not book learning, for that comes comparatively easy to me. I need to get a little spiritual incentive. I believe seeing the great devotion of people to the kings would do much to inspire a devotion to the King. The great tendency is to play safe, and inertia is a hard thing to overcome, so I have small hopes of coming across with my plan. I make up my mind to that every once in a while, only in the next moment to revolt and say "I will do it if it can be done."

Loads of love,

15 October 1915.

To: Mrs. W. Courtland Robinson,

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